



FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

# THE NICKERSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

*William Nickerson*

Signature of William<sup>1</sup> Nickerson Ring in the holidays with old-fashioned good cheer at the 15th Annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 1 from 1 to 4PM. This year we will celebrate with all the beautiful trimmings of a traditional New England Christmas in the exquisitely-decorated Caleb Nickerson Homestead. We will enjoy sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, festive cookies and punch made in a local restaurant—many from authentic 19th century recipes. We're introducing our first Mitten Tree. "A Great Yarn" in Chatham is providing Mitten Tree patterns and yarn at 30% off. The mittens will be donated to the Chatham Children's Fund.

*We hope you can join us at the crackling fire!*



## GREAT HOLIDAY IDEAS!

Give the gift of membership in the NFA, Inc., beginning at \$30 or choose a Gift for Nicks. We have beautiful Christmas tree ornaments with the Nickerson crest. Click here: <https://nickersonassoc.com/store/>



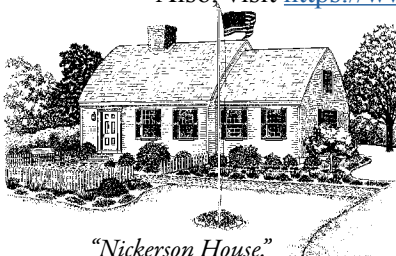
**Our 2018 reunion in Orleans was loads of fun. Join us next year as we celebrate in Yarmouth.**

*Read about the reunion on pages 6 and 7.*

## THE SURPRISES OF THE DIG

"People will be studying the Nickerson site for years to come," archaeologist Craig Chartier said in October. See the three-month dig in photos and read what comes next on pages 2 to 5.

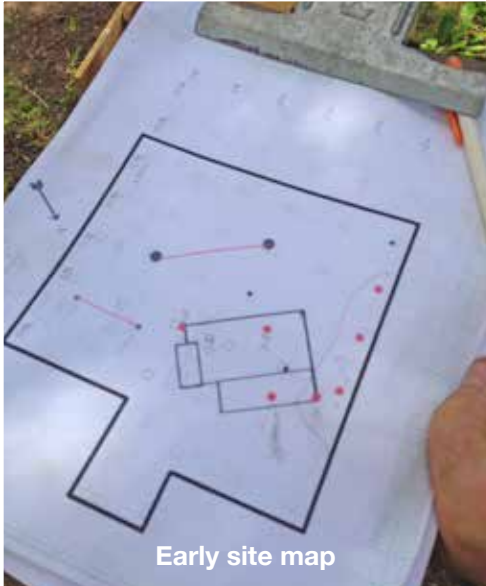
Also, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZee0ocZU60&feature=youtu.be> for a fabulous new drone video of the dig!



*"Nickerson House."*

*...being, in a sense, the printed voice of the Nickerson Family Association*

# 2018 NICKERSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG



Early site map



An early pit



Archaeologist Craig Chartier



The dig expands



The palisade



The earth is dry



Gary Nickerson and Nancy Corey search; at back Blaine Borden



Looking "like a real dig"



Craig celebrates his birthday

This winter archaeologist Craig Chartier will study the finds of the three-month dig and write his report.

# 2018 NICKERSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG



Welcome!



Craig addresses visitors



Clean potsherds drying



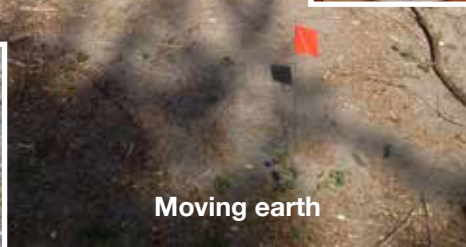
Greg Lott digs



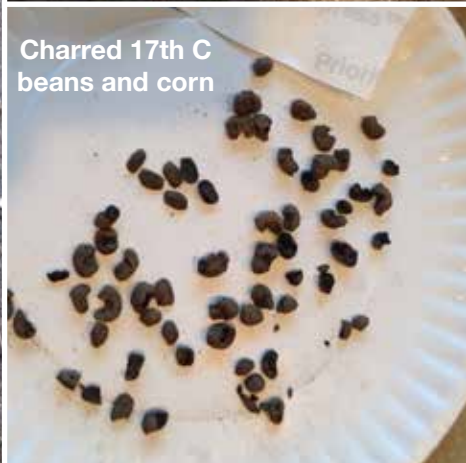
Tish Noyes washes potsherds



Stains in the pits



Moving earth



Charred 17th C beans and corn



Judy Rembisz finds a thimble

Next spring we will fill you in on some of the astonishing finds that may cause the history books to be rewritten!

# 2018 NICKERSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG



Digging up a pipe



The hearth



Sgraffito pottery



A potsherd



Covering over the hearth



A bishop's ring



The bedwarmer in situ

Thank You!

## Recent donors to the 2017-2018 “We’re Diggin’ Deep” Campaign for Archaeology



### **Grand Benefactors**

Barbara Nickerson-Estrada  
Carole West, *in memory of* Reginald S. Thompson

### **Benefactors**

M.A. McKeever

### **Grand Patrons**

Timothy Mangham

### **Conservators**

William H. and Jane Nickerson  
Richard and Dianne Watts

### **Preservationists**

David E. Dillman, *in memory of* James & Elizabeth Dillman  
Margaret Magowan and James Garland, *in honor of*  
The Hon. Gary Nickerson

### **Friends**

Rebecca Arnold  
Sue-Ellen Nickerson Byram, *in honor of* Sally-Jo Nickerson  
The Questers

---

## NFA Board Votes to Extend “The Big Dig” for 2019 Season

The NFA board voted unanimously on October 26, the final day of the 2018 dig, to raise funds to continue the dig for an additional two-month season in August and September 2019.

The dig has proven to be more significant and exciting than predicted, with finds including an extremely rare 1652 sixpence coin. Also of significance is the palisade that appears to have been erected along the eastern edge of the house.

The homestead of William and Anne was larger than previously thought. At 24-by-44-feet—huge by 17th century standards—it was possibly “Cape Cod’s first mansion,” says archaeologist Craig Chartier. Still to be explored are the outbuildings that have not yet been located, such as the barn. During the final days of the dig the team may have excavated the “privy.”

The site had a relatively short occupation (20 or 30 years) by a small number of people. This means that all of the artifacts found are associated with everyday life at the time that William and Anne lived there.

The three-month dig this year was financed through the generosity of NFA members and through a \$48,000 grant from the Town of Chatham. William and Anne were the first English settlers in what became Chatham in 1712.



*The 1652 sixpence*

On October 26 the dig was filled with soil after key areas such as the corners of the house and the hearth were marked.



*The bedwarmer*



*A Bobcat joined diggers*



*Part of the dig team*

# 2018 NICKERSON FAMILY REUNION





**NEWCOMERS 2018**

1. KEN NICKERSON 2. MARK WHITE 3. JIM NICKERSON 4. BUCK BYRAM  
 5. CONNIE SIMON 6. NANCY LANGLEY 7. NICKI BYRAM 8. GINA ANDERHUB  
 9. KIESHA NICKERSON 10. EZEKIEL NICKERSON 11. SANDY WEPLO 12. CYNTHIA  
 BEDELL 13. HARRY NASH 14. TAMMY HANKS 15. TONI HANCOCK 16. SHARON HANKS  
 17. BARBARA HANKS 18. CHARLES NICKERSON 19. KEN HANKS 20. ALLEEN CORNELL  
 21. MARY WEILBAECHER

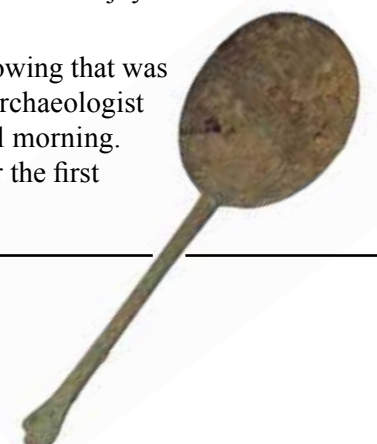


**ORLEANS REUNION LOADS OF FUN**

The 121st Annual Togethering weekend in Orleans and Chatham was loads of fun for the 100 or so cousins who traveled from as far as California, Florida and Canada to attend.

The weekend began with a presentation by Orleans historian **Bonnie Snow** speaking on the historical houses of Orleans. That evening we enjoyed sumptuous hors d'oeuvres by chef **Dan Rosenbach**, owner of the Red Cottage Restaurant, during a wine party at the Orleans Historical Society. Saturday morning, during our annual meeting, historian **Ronald Petersen** spoke about the 100th anniversary of the German U-boat attack on Nauset Beach. For dinner we enjoyed a buffet at Riverway Lobster House with **John Whelan** speaking on the music of World Wars I and II.

On Sunday, many attended services at the First Congregational Church of Chatham. Following that was our cookout at the Nickerson campus. And then came the centerpiece of the weekend-- archaeologist **Craig Chartier's** talk and a visit to the three-month dig, which had been in progress all morning. We arrived at the dig site as Chartier's crew removed from the soil a large spoon, seen for the first time in over 350 years.



Page 6 (clockwise from upper left)

- Bonnie Snow (at podium) gives a talk on Old Orleans
- The food line at the cookout
- Ezekiel Nickerson, Davis Stanko and Olympia Warren
- Dan Rosenbach, chef/owner of the Red Cottage
- Enjoying the cookout
- Keisha and James Nickerson
- Cookout under the tent

Page 7 (clockwise from upper left)

- A few donors to the dig
- Newcomers 2018
- Archaeologist Craig Chartier
- Davis Stanko and Lin Webber
- 17th century spoon
- Videographer Paul Celeste interviews Ron Nickerson about the dig



## 2018-19 OFFICERS

*President/Treasurer:*

**JAMES M. NICKERSON**

*Cromwell, IN*

*Vice President:*

**DAVID E. DILLMAN**

*Chester Springs, PA*

*Secretary:*

**JILL N. MACDONALD**

*Palm City, FL and Chatham, MA*

*Membership Chair:*

**RON NICKERSON**

*Chatham, MA*

*Genealogy Chair:*

**NANCY COREY**

*McCook, NE*

*Endowment Fund Chair:*

**DR. D. SCOTT NICKERSON**

*Big Horn, WY*

*Newsletter Editor:*

**DEBRA LAWLESS**

*Brewster, MA*



## *A word from President James Nickerson...*

### **Imagine holding a 354-year-old spoon once used by William & Anne**

Dear Nickerson Cousins:

The door to our forebears is open and we have stepped inside to find treasurers beyond our imaginations. The Big Dig goes on and is changing the interpretations of how William and Anne lived.



With each passing day archaeologist **Craig Chartier** and his colleagues find scores of new artifacts left behind by our ancestors. At last count, there are about 1000 “choice pieces” and hundreds of thousands of other artifacts including shell and brick. Among the items are an intact thimble, part of a Staffordshire candlestick, part of a brass bedwarmer and a tobacco pipe stem that suggested its user had an overbite.

Craig’s initial assumption was that William and Anne’s house would be comparable to other houses discovered in Massachusetts with one hearth and about ten-feet-by-twenty-feet in size. That assumption was turned upside down by his findings.

The Nickerson house was much bigger than average. It measured 24-feet-by-44-feet and had not one but two hearths! A house with two hearths and of that size was unheard of in the mid-to-late 1600s in New England. Only the very rich back in England had two hearths. In October a fragment of a Dutch ceramic frying pan-- a first in New England-- was found. The Nickersons cooked on this piece while others were frying on cast iron, again pointing to their affluence. It therefore appears that from humble beginnings in the trade of weaving, the Nickersons accumulated wealth well beyond the norm.

Craig has opined that this site is the richest dig in all of Massachusetts, yielding artifacts that shed new light on the living conditions in the 1600s.

Keep up with this “wonder” by visiting the NFA’s two websites, [nickersonassoc.com](http://nickersonassoc.com) and [cnh.nickersonassoc.com](http://cnh.nickersonassoc.com) and/or the two Facebook pages. New images and information are posted frequently.

The 2018 Togethering held in Orleans last month was a smashing success. Debra Lawless planned and executed the reunion flawlessly.





The laughter, food and drink flowed across the venues with, of course, the dig being the centerpiece. Saturday we were treated to an extraordinary presentation of the how, who and why the Town of Orleans was attacked by a German U-Boat in 1918!

The attendees elected a slate of accomplished, dedicated people to the Board and Officers. They are: **David Dillman**, Vice President; **Jill MacDonald**, Secretary; **Nancy Nickerson Corey**, director; **Debbie Sweetman**, director; **Bob Nickerson**, director; **D. Scott Nickerson**, director; **Edmond Nickerson**, director; and yours truly, **Jim Nickerson**, President/Treasurer. **Debra Lawless** is our new Executive Director and manages the far-reaching aspects of the NFA. These folks are here to serve you as well as lead the NFA.

We thank our retiring board members **Judy Needham** and **Patricia Noyes** for their dedicated service.

The NFA continues its commitment to the Family's genealogy. **Nancy Corey** brings a sharp focus to this endeavor. **Brian Smith** specializes in Nova Scotia lines. **Gail Blankeneau**, Nancy and a few volunteers continue to add to the Samuel Nickerson Genealogy Project. Volunteers on this project are needed and are very much appreciated. If this project is of interest to you, please contact Nancy at [nancyroots@msn.com](mailto:nancyroots@msn.com).

Thanks to all of you for your continued membership and support of your family organization. Your contributions are appreciated as they enable the ongoing work of the Nickerson Family Association, Inc.

Remember that your gift to the Association is tax-deductible and benefits your Nickerson family

Please visit our website at:  
<http://nickersonassoc.com>

Let us know what you think by leaving comments when visiting on Facebook, watch videos on our YouTube channel (accessed from the website) and contact us via email at [wmnick1107@gmail.com](mailto:wmnick1107@gmail.com), by phone at 508-945-6086 or by U.S. mail addressed to P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650.



## 2018-19 DIRECTORS

**EDMOND RHODES NICKERSON**

*South Dennis, MA*

**ROBERT NICKERSON**

*Harwich, MA*

**DR. D. SCOTT NICKERSON**

*Big Horn, WY*

**DEBRA SWEETMAN**

*Ontario, Canada*



**DEBRA LAWLESS**

NFA Executive Director  
[DebraNFA@outlook.com](mailto:DebraNFA@outlook.com)



### **Nickerson Family Association, Inc.**

Mailing Address:  
 Post Office Box 296  
 North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

Street Address:  
 1107 Orleans Road (Route 28)  
 North Chatham, Massachusetts

Phone:  
 508-945-6086

E-mail:  
[wmnick1107@gmail.com](mailto:wmnick1107@gmail.com)  
[www.nickersonassoc.com](http://www.nickersonassoc.com)

Newsletter Photos:  
 REBECCA ARNOLD  
 DEBRA LAWLESS  
 BOB WEBBER

# Chatham Air Station Played Role In Only WWI Attack On U.S.

by Debra Lawless

One hundred years ago, during World War I, the only attack on American soil by the Germans took place on Nauset Beach in Orleans when U-boat 156 fired shells that hit the beach.

That attack was soon answered by seaplanes from the Chatham Naval Air Station, which dropped dud bombs on the U-boat.

It was July 21, 1918, a hot and hazy Sunday, when U-boat 156 lurked in the waters just off Orleans. According to one theory, the submarine was searching for the transatlantic cable that ran from Orleans to Brest, France, with the intent of cutting it. When the U-boat could not find the cable, perhaps its commander became spiteful, surfaced from the depths, and began firing at its nearest target. This happened to be an unarmed, 120-foot steel tug, the Perth Amboy, which was towing four barges with 32 people aboard. As about 1,000 beachgoers watched, some of the shells hit the beach. It was then 10:30 a.m.

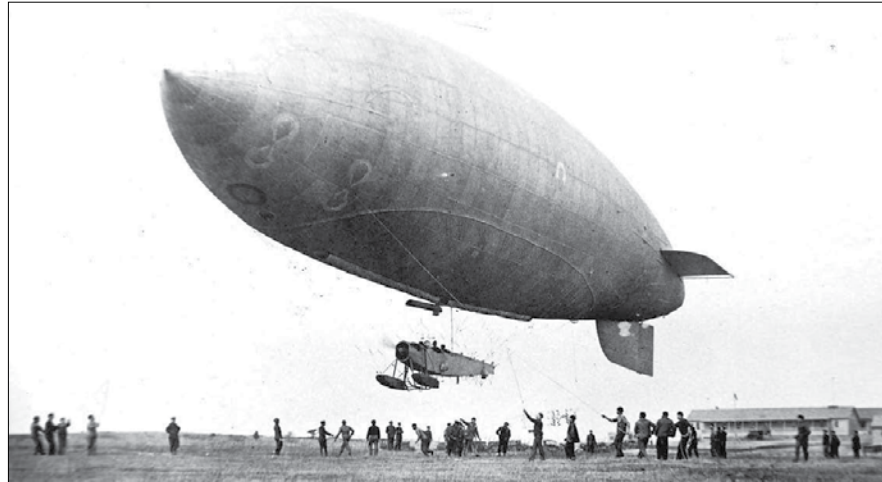
The United States had entered World War I in April 1917 and six months later construction of the Naval Air Station began on 44 acres of what old maps call Nickerson's Neck in Chatham Port. The station was built for \$7 million and officially commissioned on Jan. 6, 1918, just seven and one half months before the attack on Orleans. It had two large seaplane hangars and one smaller one, a 252-foot long blimp hangar, a mess hall, barracks for 13 officers and 145 enlisted men, a hospital, radar station, munitions building, hydrogen tank, boat sheds, a shop, a pigeon house for homing pigeons and more. When the station opened in October 1917, local people poured in on foot for the festivities.

During the war, the station's sailors and aviators mingled with Chatham's residents. In the 1919 novel "Shavings" by Chatham author Joseph C. Lincoln, one young woman says, "What fun! I'm just crazy about uniforms."

The station's mission was to make sure coastal shipping in Nantucket Sound could safely reach Cape Ann. Two seaplanes with Lewis gun and 120-pound TNT bombs regularly patrolled the coast while the blimp made more distant sorties. The station's first fatality occurred on July 13, 1918 when one of the planes crashed, killing its pilot.

Despite all this surveillance activity, the station knew nothing of the attack on Orleans, just five miles distant, until a surferman in Orleans called the Naval Air Station at 10:49 a.m. to advise the officers that an attack was in progress.

It was just as hot and hazy in Chatham as it was in Orleans, and because it was a Sunday, most of the men who were not on duty had meandered up to a ballgame in Provincetown. Others were out searching for a blimp that had failed to return. Those men who were there loaded bombs onto the only two planes that were available—HS-



A blimp is launched at the Chatham Naval Air Station. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY



An aerial view of the Chatham Naval Air Station, looking northwest from Strong Island. Ryder's Cove is in the distance, Crow's Pond on the right.

IL seaplanes or "flying boats." The first seaplane that took off experienced spark plug trouble and returned after two minutes. The second seaplane was successful and shortly arrived in Orleans, spotting the U-boat on the water's surface. The seaplane dropped the first bomb, which landed within 40 feet of the sub and failed to detonate. A second seaplane arrived, dropping another dud bomb on the sub. The U-boat, meanwhile, was shooting at the seaplanes.

Finally the pilot of the second seaplane, Phillip Eaton, "threw the heaviest thing he had on board—a monkey wrench—at the sub. It landed on the deck of the sub, much to the astonishment of the submarine's crew," according to an account of the incident in the archives of the Chatham Historical Society.

At 11:30 a.m. the U-boat dove for the final time and disappeared.

Communications were primitive at that

time. The seaplanes did not have radios. To alert the fishing fleet that the U-boat was in the area, they dropped signal buoys with messages ahead of the boat's paths. The buoys were marked with red pennants and could be spotted and picked up by the boats. Two pigeons also rode on each patrol plane. Light aluminum containers were strapped to their legs. A pilot could send a message via homing pigeon back to the base. This method worked only by daylight, and not in the fog. In October, thanks to a message carried by a pigeon, word got back to the station that a plane had had to make a forced landing at sea 50 miles from Chatham. After drifting for 27 hours, the men were picked up by a boat from Nantucket.

It is important to note, too, how primitive those HS-1L seaplanes were, powered by noisy Liberty engines, just 15 years after the Wright Brothers' historic first flight.

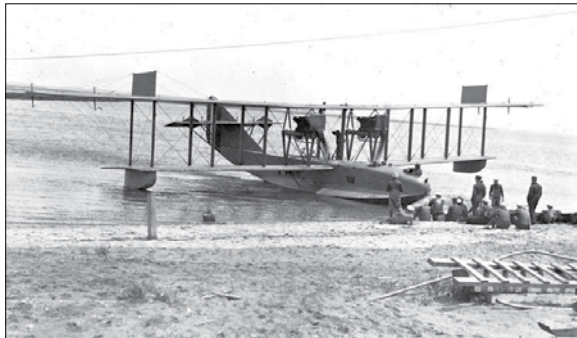
The attack on Orleans was a turning point for the Naval Air Station. The Navy sent in 10 new HS-2L "flying boats" to add to the HS-1Ls that were already at the base. Powerful Davis guns were added to the seaplanes. These heavy-firepower guns could attack enemy warships from the air.

During the following fall, the war began to wind down in Europe. More dangerous than the war, though, was the deadly Spanish influenza pandemic that killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide. (About 20 million people were killed in WWI.) At the Naval Air Station one man died in September. This contrasts with the hundreds of soldiers and sailors who became ill at Camp Devens near Boston.

The war ended on Nov. 11, 1918 with the signing of the armistice. In May 1920 the station was deactivated. It closed in 1923, with most of the buildings demolished in 1924. In the 1960s, ground was broken at the old station for the houses of Eastward Point. To this day strips of concrete from the old field can be found throughout the neighborhood, sometimes hidden under lawns.

For further reading on the Naval Air Station, see "Wings Over Cape Cod: The Chatham Naval Air Station 1917-1922" by Joseph D. Buckley (2000); for more information on the Orleans attack read "Attack on Orleans: The World War I Submarine Raid on Cape Cod" (History Press, 2014) by Jake Klim.

Orleans will commemorate the skirmish with a talk by Klim today (July 19) at 7 p.m. at the Orleans Historical Society Meetinghouse Museum. On July 20 at 7 p.m., Paul Hodos, author of "The Kaiser's Lost Kreuzer," will give a talk at the Meetinghouse, and on July 21, a commemoration ceremony will be held at Nauset Beach at 5 p.m.



A seaplane getting ready for launching on the water at the Chatham Naval Air Station.



Some of the pilots stationed at the Chatham Naval Air Station.



## Lawless Named NFA's First Executive Director

Debra Lawless, the NFA's archivist since 2012, has been named the group's first executive director. Debra will supervise NFA activities that include membership, volunteers, Caleb Nickerson Homestead programming, reunions, genealogy, special events, public relations/marketing, fundraising/development and day-to-day operations.

Debra has a background in journalism and history and has worked as a freelance writer for many Cape Cod publications. She is the author of four books on Cape Cod history and has a certificate in genealogical research from Boston University. Please stop by the Nick House to say hello to Debra or email her at [DebraNFA@outlook.com](mailto:DebraNFA@outlook.com).

The Cape Cod Chronicle - 10/4/2018



## A Century Ago, Chatham Didn't Escape Deadly Spanish Flu

by Debra Lawless

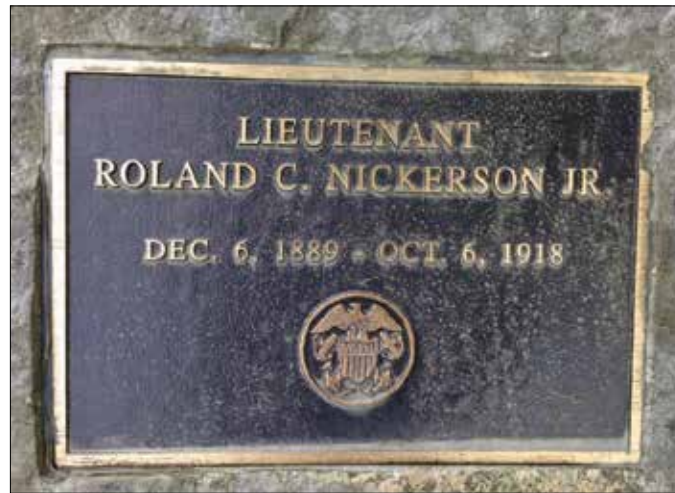
It was 100 years ago this month that, in the waning days of World War I, what was known as the Spanish flu killed between 20 and 50 million people around the world.

And Chatham was not immune. All told, 175 cases of influenza were reported in Chatham during the fall of 1918, according to the annual town report.

Things got so bad that on Oct. 1, 1918, the Chatham Monitor reported, that "the public schools, Orpheum theatre, churches and all public places in town have been closed by order of the board of health on account of the grip." (Grip was the local term for the illness.) Schools would remain closed until Oct. 21. The Naval Air Station had already lost one man to the flu, Quartermaster 3rd class Joseph D. Yanacek, who died on Sept. 19. And a man named Donald Small had died at home.

At the time, people believed the flu had originated in Spain. A century later, some medical researchers believe that what would become a pandemic may have originated in Kansas or even China—different theories are still bandied about. Aided by the travel of soldiers and the close proximity in which soldiers and war workers lived at home, influenza traveled the world. In the United States an estimated 675,000 died, with half of those deaths occurring between mid-September and early December 1918. "Never since the Black Death has such a plague swept over the world," the Hyannis Patriot noted.

The virus was spread through a sneeze or a drop of mucous and came on suddenly. Symptoms included an intense headache, body aches, fevers up to 103 degrees, exhaustion, coughing, chills and sometimes vomiting. It became difficult to breathe. The incubation period was 24 to 72 hours, and it was "as dangerous as



Roland C. Nickerson Jr. was serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force in Washington, D.C. when he caught the Spanish Flu and died. DEBRA LAWLESS PHOTO

poison gas shells," the Monitor advised on Oct. 29.

With Boston in the midst of the epidemic, some believed they were safer away from the city and returned to Chatham off-season.

Joshua Atkins Nickerson 2nd, though, was about to begin his freshman year at Harvard University that fall after graduating from Chatham High School in a class of six the previous spring. Nickerson departed for Harvard a few days early to stay with his sister and her husband in South Weymouth. "At midday dinner I did not feel well, left the table and went to lie down," he recalled in his 1988 memoir "Days to Remember," about growing up in Chatham. "That was the last thing I really knew until several days later, I had influenza, and I was lucky to be alive."

Nickerson's father, Oscar, traveled up to Boston to attend to his son, the Monitor reported on Oct. 1.

Meanwhile, Roland C. Nickerson Jr., a grandson of Chatham's Samuel Nickerson, who had become wealthy as a banker in Chicago, was serving as a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. In Washington, D.C. Nickerson caught the influenza. The illness turned to pneumonia, and he died in a hospital on Oct. 6 at the age of 28. He is buried near his family's summer home in Brewster.

The Monitor was perhaps too optimistic in its Oct. 8. edition. "Our local physicians seem to have the grip well in hand, only a few cases now reported but one case has proved fatal," the paper reported. "All precautions are being taken and with the fresh winds and salt air with which we are

favored let us hope most of the germs will blow off to sea."

But the sea breeze was not enough to ward off the disease. The same issue reported the death of the young man Charles E. Young, who delivered the Sunday newspapers. Unlike the death curve of a classic influenza, half of those who died were in the prime of life, in their 20s and 30s. And medical workers were not immune to influenza, despite the best precautions. The town's doctor, F.B. Worthing, fell ill and did not recover until after the new year.

"Avoid unnecessary gathering," the Chatham Committee on Public Safety warned the public. "Avoid the cough and the sneeze. Wash the hands frequently and before putting them to the mouth. Keep in the open air and the sun." Those with the flu should use paper cups and plates which should be destroyed. Those attending the ill should wear cheesecloth masks. Houses were fumigated after a death by lighting formaldehyde candles, according to the Oct. 8 Monitor.

Chatham was fortunate compared to a city like Philadelphia, for example, where 12,000 died. There, the municipal system was so overtaxed that bodies were collected by horse-drawn carts and graves dug by convicts.

But finally, by late October, the worst did seem to be over.

"The grip sick list is growing less all the time, and we hope to have our town clear of it soon" was the report in the same paper that nonetheless reported additional influenza deaths. Churches held services that Sunday, Oct. 20 and schools opened the following day. Cases of the grip would be reported in the paper through the end of the year, well after the Nov. 11 Armistice that marked the end of World War I.



### **Nickerson Sisters Visit Nickerson Grave at Normandy**

Last May, **Phyllis Nickerson Power** and her sister **Barbara A. Nickerson**, both of Chatham, visited Normandy, France. One of the highlights of the trip was their visit to the American Cemetery & Memorial at Omaha Beach. Among the 9,387 American military buried there is **James E. Nickerson** of Oklahoma who served as a sergeant in the 38th Infantry.

With the help of **Ed** and **Debbie Burkhardt Schwabe** and the internet, they were able to reach out to James's 90-year-old brother in Oklahoma. James was the oldest of ten children and died on June 21, 1944. Along with roses, an American flag was laid at the cross on this hallowed ground that covers 172 acres overlooking the English Channel.

The sisters then headed to Omaha Beach for a memorial service for American visitors that included a poem of gratitude from the granddaughter of the head of the French Resistance in Normandy. Taps was played and all attending saluted an American flag as they sang the National Anthem. This created a moving moment not easily forgotten. We are grateful for all our Nickerson veterans.

### **Nancy Nickerson of Denmark joins NFA**

After graduating from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, with a master's degree in costume design in 1981, Nancy Nickerson visited Denmark and "went cucumbers" (as they say in Denmark) over the country.

In fact, Denmark reminded her of her hometown on Cape Cod. In 1985 Nancy moved to Denmark on a tourist visa and eventually found a job in the costume department of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, which sponsored her work visa. Nancy has now been with the DBC for 28 years, and met her husband, a Danish lighting designer, on the set of the drama "Taxi." As a costume designer and stylist she dresses news anchors and actors in original series.

"I am an eleventh generation Nickerson, I think," she writes. "My dad was **Samuel Rogers Nickerson** from Centerville. I know he supported your organization and worked a lot with **Burt Derrick**."

Nancy mentions William Nickerson's career as a tailor and adds, "I guess a love of sewing and creating is in my genes. I have always been very interested in Europe, art and history. My mother's side of the family is Swedish and French. So I guess it all ties in pretty well."

### **Thomas Nickerson Logbook goes to Nantucket Historical Assoc.**

A 78-page logbook of **Thomas Nickerson**, the cabin boy and youngest member of the crew of the ill-fated whale-ship *The Essex*, which was destroyed by a whale in 1820, has been purchased at auction and given to the Nantucket Historical Association. The logbook has been handed down in the Nickerson family and is an account of a later voyage Nickerson took on the *Wabash* in 1832/33. The book contains watercolors as well as drafts of letters and drawings.

### ***A Bit of History:* Chatham's Town Meeting**

It is perhaps ironic that voters at Chatham's Town Annual Meeting approved a \$48,000 grant for the archaeological excavation of William and Anne Nickerson's c. 1664 homestead when the town meeting itself, like William and Anne, was a transplant from England.

New England is currently one of the few places in the U.S. where the town meeting form of government prevails. Town meetings were transplanted from East Anglia, "where they had existed for many centuries," according to Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America. East Anglia also had selectmen—as in Chatham—and while the selectmen "disposed of routine business," the town meeting dealt with larger questions—as in Chatham.

---

# ROOTS AND BRANCHES

## FALLEN BRANCHES

**Basil Colburne Nickerson**, 94, died on Jan. 3 in Ketchikan, Alaska. His parents were Daphne Helen Nickerson and Aubrey Milford Nickerson. Basil was the last survivor of two rejoined branches of the Nickerson family after 14 generations of separate lineage. Basil was born on Cape Sable Island and left school during the Great Depression. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and later opened a shop “A Taste of Leather” in San Francisco. He was predeceased by his adopted sons. He leaves nine nephews and nieces including Renee Daphne Kimball. Basil’s line: Aubrey<sup>9</sup>, Vincent<sup>8</sup>, Collins<sup>7</sup>, James<sup>6</sup>, Gideon<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4,3,2,1</sup>.

**George L. Haag**, 91, died on Feb. 3 in Lancaster, Penn. He was the son of Edward W. and May C. (Nickerson) Haag. George served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII and he retired in 1986 from Proctor & Gamble. Surviving him are his wife Jean, his three children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. George’s lineage: May Anna<sup>10</sup>, Ralph<sup>9</sup>, Heman<sup>8,7</sup>, Daniel<sup>6</sup>, Eliphalet<sup>5</sup>, Reuben<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

**Nancy Nickerson Ryder**, 95, formerly of Wellfleet and Lexington, Mass., died March 26. A daughter of Hollis and Carol Nickerson, Nancy was a musician who began her career on the bugle and progressed to the violin. She performed with the Brockton Civic Orchestra and played first violin with the Boston Civic Symphony. Nancy is survived by her daughter Susan Hamar and her husband Daniel Hamar; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter Marcia Abigail Ryder. Nancy’s lineage: Hollis<sup>9</sup>, Winsor<sup>8,7</sup>, Dean<sup>6</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>5,4,3</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.

**Charlotte Rosebel Nickerson Carty**, 98, died April 25. She leaves two daughters, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Charlotte was predeceased by her husband George William Carty. Charlotte was born on Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia in 1920. She met her future husband while he was on leave from military duty in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. They were married in 1947 and raised their daughters in Medford and Waltham, Mass. When Charlotte moved to Chatham she volunteered at the Atwood House Museum, Cape Cod Hospital and the Chatham Public Library. Charlotte’s final eight years were spent in Michigan. Charlotte’s lineage: Walter<sup>9</sup>, Vincent<sup>8</sup>, Collins<sup>7</sup>, James<sup>6</sup>, Gideon<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4,3,2,1</sup>. Charlotte was an NFA Life Member. Those who so desire may make memorial donations in the memory of Charlotte to the: The Nickerson Family Association, c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650.

**Genealogist Laura G. Prescott**, 60, died August 26 after a three-year battle with cancer. Laura was born in 1958 in Charleston, W.Va. She graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in History in 1980. Laura was employed by the NFA in researching The Nickerson Family Genealogy, Volume 5, Part 1: Nicholas Nickerson & His Descendants, published in 2012. She worked at the New England Historic Genealogical Society for seven years before launching her own genealogical business. In March 2014 Laura was hired by Ancestry and moved to Utah. She died at home in N.H.

**Former NFA Board Member Pamela Elizabeth Reed Bailey**, 65, died May 7 at home in Palm Bay, Fl. A daughter of the late Kenneth W. Reed and Dorothy Tripp Reed, she is survived by her husband of 28 years, William Joseph Bailey, and her close cousins Brian Reed and Jill Lillie, both of Massachusetts. Born in Wareham in 1952, she earned a bachelor’s degree in education and English at Bridgewater State College. She was employed as an activity director for 40 years in Massachusetts and Florida. “She was passionate about her family history,” says her cousin Jill Lillie. For the NFA she helped coordinate the NFA annual reunion in Bourne in 2010 and served on the board from 2013 to 2016. Pam’s lineage: Dorothy Tripp<sup>10</sup>, Susie Cannon<sup>9</sup>, Elizabeth Nickerson<sup>8</sup>, Prince Albert Nickerson<sup>7</sup>, Hezekiah<sup>6</sup>, Henry<sup>5</sup>, Silas<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

**Andrew Charles Nickerson**, 31, of Mashpee, died on June 13. He leaves his wife, Katrina (Nichols) Nickerson, his father, Nathan C. Nickerson III, his mother and step-father MaryAnne and Tom Rhoads and two brothers. He was predeceased by his grandfather Nathan C. Nickerson II. Andrew was a history buff, an avid sports fan, and enjoyed hiking and fishing. Andrew’s line: Nathan<sup>11,10,9</sup>, Luther<sup>8</sup>, Joseph<sup>7,6</sup>, Samuel<sup>5,4,3</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.

**Helen A. Nickerson Cogswell**, 87, of West Bridgewater, died on June 27. She was the wife of the late Richard W. Cogswell Sr. Born August 4, 1930 in Taunton, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Helen (Hayden) Nickerson. She was a life-time resident of West Bridgewater and worked for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co and AT&T. She was a doll collector, poet, and enjoyed sewing and knitting. She is survived by a daughter, two sisters and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was also the mother of Richard W. Cogswell Jr. and sister of the late Susan R. Floeck. Helen’s lineage: Albert<sup>9</sup>, Howard<sup>8</sup>, David<sup>7</sup>, William<sup>6</sup>, Isaac<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>.

**Jean Nickerson Primavera**, 93, died Aug. 7 in Orleans, Mass. She was the wife of the late Thomas Primavera, the mother of Gary and Corliss Primavera and the grandmother of Stephanie and Kendra. Her parents were W. Sears and Donna Corliss Nickerson. Jean’s father, W. Sears, was the well-known author of The Bay As I See It. Jean lived on the shore of Pleasant Bay on the land her family occupied for nearly 350 years. She inherited her love of the natural world and of Pleasant Bay from her parents. Jean was born in 1924 upstairs at home in the Nickerson Funeral Home in Harwich Port. She later earned a degree in botany from Duke and began her career in Ft. Detrick, Md. where she met her future husband. They raised their family in Maryland and retired to the “Nick Shack” on Pleasant Bay in 1984 where Jean continued her tradition of writing about her surroundings and family treasures. She was a life member of the NFA. Jean’s lineage: Warren<sup>9,8,7</sup>, Seth<sup>6</sup>, Stephan<sup>5,4</sup>, William<sup>3,2,1</sup>.





# GIFTS FOR NICKS ORDER FORM

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>NICKERSON T-SHIRTS:</b> Circle logo/Cape Cod outline		XL 44-46			
Navy blue with white print	Blue	LG 40-42			
White with navy blue print	White	MD 38-40		\$15.00	
(Size SM in blue only)	(Circle One)	SM 34-36			
<b>NICKERSON T-SHIRTS:</b>					
Navy blue with Nickerson Crest		S/M/L/XL		\$15.00	
<b>DIG COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS:</b>					
White Sized as for Nick T-s				\$20.00	
Gray					
(circle one)					
<b>NICKERSON SWEATSHIRTS:</b>					
Navy blue w/white circular logo & Cape Cod outline	Logo	XXL		\$30.00	
Navy blue w/white Nickerson Crest	Crest	XL 44-46		\$30.00	
	(Circle One)	LG 40-42		\$30.00	
		MD 38-40		\$30.00	
		SM 34-36		\$30.00	
<b>NICKERSON POLO:</b> Blue or white, w/embossed crest		XXL		\$35.00	
in color, w/ or w/o pocket, cotton.	White	XL		\$35.00	
Specify POCKET or NOT (circle one)	Blue	L		\$35.00	
		M		\$35.00	
		S		\$35.00	
<b>COFFEE MUG:</b> Large, deep navy blue with gold Nickerson crest				*\$12.00	
<b>DIG COMMENORATIVE COFFEE MUG:</b> Logo of Nickerson Homestead				*\$12.00	
<b>BASEBALL CAP:</b> Navy w/Nickerson crest	Navy			*\$20.00	
“Team Nickerson” ball cap with stretch band	Navy			\$22.00	
<b>CAPE COD LAPEL PIN:</b> With “Nickerson” across Cape, bright gold, red star shows Chatham				*\$5.00	
<b>CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS:</b>					
Engraved in simulated scrimshaw, in color	Nickerson House				\$20.00 ea.
	Caleb House				
	Nickerson Crest				
<b>NICKERSON CREST KEY RING</b>				*\$2.00	
<b>LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AND NOTECARDS</b>				**\$115.00	
Watercolor Paintings by Lin Webber	Prints				
	Notecards			***\$20.00	
<b>ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF THE CALEB NICKERSON HOUSE</b> (Pamphlet)				\$5.00	
<b>HISTORY OF WILLIAM NICKERSON</b> (Pamphlet)				\$10.00	
<b>THE BUSBY FAMILY</b> (Pamphlet)				\$5.00	
<b>CAPE COD PILGRIM TRAIL DRIVING TOUR</b>		CD		\$10.00	
<b>CHATHAM DRIVING TOUR</b>		CD		\$10.00	
<b>CHATHAM SEA CAPTAINS IN THE AGE OF SAIL</b>				\$20.00	
By Joseph Nickerson and Geraldine Nickerson					
<b>THE TARNISHED SABER:</b> The life and times of Maj. Azor Nickerson				\$10.00	
<b>THE NICKERSON FAMILY, PARTS 1-3**</b>				\$50.00+	
<b>NICKERSON COAT-OF-ARMS FLAG</b>				\$70.00	



# GIFTS FOR NICKS ORDER FORM

*Keep the Nick Gift Store in mind when shopping for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christmas, and any time there's an occasion to give a Nick you love something special!*



**Additional Charges (from previous page):**

- \*Includes \$6.25 Massachusetts Tax
- \*\*Includes \$15.00 Shipping & Handling
- \*\*\*Includes \$5.00 Shipping & Handling

+Canada and Overseas book orders, please add \$25.00 per book.

Subtotal from previous page: \_\_\_\_\_

Add 15% Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional charges (see chart at left): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: All money and payments must be submitted in US DOLLARS (Banks now charge us \$25 per check for foreign currency!)**

**SHIP ORDER TO:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

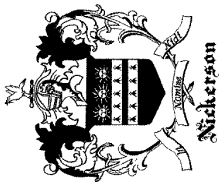
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your order to:

The Nickerson Family Association, Post Office Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

To make it as convenient as possible to buy your loved ones gifts about the Nickersons, click on this hyperlink [nickersonassoc.com/store](http://nickersonassoc.com/store)

to go directly to the NFA's web-based store and order directly from it!



Nickerson Family Association, Inc.  
Post Office Box 296  
North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

**Address Service Requested**

STANDARD  
NON-PROFIT  
PRESORTED  
PERMIT NO. 44  
ORLEANS, MA 02653

